

**Desk Statement for Jason Galloway/ORC Report on Sampling Results of PFOA and
HFPO-DA in Ohio and West Virginia
and
History of EPA Actions to address PFOA and HFPO-DA in Drinking Water Supplies in the
Vicinity of the Chemours Washington Works Facility**

Background / History

Since 2001, EPA Regions 3 and 5, and other entities have taken actions against DuPont, and more recently Chemours, requiring the companies to assess and address human exposure to PFOA in the vicinity of the Washington Works facility in Parkersburg, West Virginia where the manufacture of Teflon has taken place since the early 1950s. Sampling of ground water, surface water and public and private drinking water supplies was required under several initiatives. In a 2001 Consent Order with WVDEP, DuPont was required to sample ground water in the vicinity of three landfills and the Ohio River. A few years later, a civil lawsuit settlement (Leach vs. DuPont) required DuPont to sample and treat numerous private drinking water supplies and public water supplies within six water supply districts in West Virginia and Ohio. In a 2006 SDWA Order, EPA Regions 3 and 5 required additional drinking water sampling in areas not specifically addressed under the civil lawsuit. A few years later in 2009, EPA issued a provisional health advisory (PHA) of 400 ppt for PFOA. In response to the PHA, EPA Regions 3 and 5 issued a new Order to DuPont, requiring the expansion of drinking water sampling into new areas that could be at risk. In 2016, EPA issued a lifetime health advisory (HA) of 70 ppt. The 2009 SDWA Order was modified to reflect the new HA and sampling areas were expanded once again. As sampling data is received, sampling areas continue to expand. Overall, sampling currently encompasses an area close to 500 square miles in West Virginia and Ohio. Works facility. Air dispersion appears to be the primary mode of contaminant transport.

Current Status / Water Supplies Addressed

To date, samples were collected from around 700 residential drinking water wells. Of these, over 400 were determined to be less than the HA (70 ppt) and not require treatment. The remaining systems showed levels greater than the HA. By most recent estimates, 110 have been connected to a public water supply, 120 are being treated with granular activated carbon (GAC), 32 are receiving bottled water, and 27 have declined treatment or PWS connection. Residential water supplies receiving GAC are monitored quarterly to ensure proper PFOA removal. In addition, numerous municipal water supplies have been sampled and nine are being treated with GAC and being monitored monthly to ensure proper PFOA removal. A population of about 75,000 is being protected through these actions.

GenX Monitoring

Since March 2018, Chemours has sampled 25 public and private water supplies in West Virginia and Ohio for HFPO-DA (GenX). Nine of the water supplies (2 public, 7 private) indicated the presence of GenX in the untreated (raw) water. Since then, two of the private water supplies have been connected to a public supply. Chemours continues to sample on a quarterly basis the remaining seven water supplies which have exhibited GenX in the untreated water. The GAC treatment which is in place at each of the wells has effectively removed GenX in the finished water. EPA continues to evaluate the raw water concentrations to determine if there is an upward trend.

Findings

EPA Regions 3 and 5 are confident that actions taken to date have protected the vast majority of the population exposed to endangering levels of PFOA and GenX in the vicinity of the Chemours Washington Works facility. That said, EPA continues to coordinate with Chemours to require the monitoring of new outlying areas where there may be water supplies which exceed the HA.

Research Underway

EPA Regions 3, 5 and ORD are currently engaged in a research effort to more thoroughly understand contaminant transport of PFAS around the Washington Works facility. Sampling of the surface water, ground water and the soil will be undertaken. There will also be sampling for nontargeted PFAS compounds to more fully characterize the extent of contaminant releases from the facility.